GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE

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RETAIL PRICES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1945

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for September quarter 1945 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1069, Toowoomba 1085, Rockhampton 1077, Townsville 1109, Bundaberg 1049 and Warwick 1066.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

City	September Quarter,1945-Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared with -		
	Year ended June 1939	September Quarter 1944	June Quarter 1945
Brisbane	23.9	- 0.2	-0. 3
Toowoomba	27.5	0.1	-0. 3
Rockhampton	25.1	0.3	-0. 6
Townsville	21.6	- 0.7	-0. 5
Bundaberg	24.7	- 0.8	-0. 4
Warwick	29.7	0.3	0. 7

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares,etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

CITY	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year ended June,1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on June Qr. 1945.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year ended June,1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on June Qr. 1945	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June,1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on June Qr. 1945
Brisbane	12.7	-0.4	71.4	-0. 4	19.2	0.1
Toowoomba	23.7	-0.9	69.0	0. 1	18.5	0.1
Rockhampton	13.4	-0.9	71.1	-0. 7	20.9	-
Townsville	9.8	-1.3	70.0	-	18.1	-0.2
Bundaberg	13.3	-0.9	67.7	-0. 1	17.8	-
Warwick	18.1	1.6	71.4	0. 4	21.2	-

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series

Index numbers for September quarter, 1945 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 923, Toowoomba 947, Rockhampton 916, Townsville 975, Bundaberg 884 and Warwick 896.

From June quarter 1945 to September quarter 1945 the "B" Series Index showed decreases in Brisbane 0.3%, Toowoomba 0.6%, Rockhampton 0.7%, Townsville 0.8% and Bundaberg 0.7%. Warwick increased 1.1%. The decreases were caused by a seasonal fall in the price of eggs, but this fall was more than offset, in Warwick, by a rise in meat prices during the quarter.

The rent index remained stationary in all towns.

Compared with September quarter 1944 the "B" Series index increased in Brisbane 0.1% Toowoomba 0.4% Rockhampton 1.0% and Warwick 1.0%.

There was no change in Townsville and Bundaberg.

The rent index showed no movement in Brisbane and Townsville, but small increases appeared in Toowoomba (0.1%) Rockhampton (0.1%) Bundaberg (0.3%) and Warwick (0.4%).

Increases were recorded in all towns for food and groceries compared with 1938-39, the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in Queensland Cities

The following table shows the amounts, for the various Queensland cities, necessary, in September quarter 1945, to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba ..	1. 0. 4	1. 0. 10	19. 11	19. 9
Rockhampton ..	1. 0. 2	1. 1. 0	17. 10	1. 0. 4
Townsville ..	1. 0. 9	1. 1. 9	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 1
Bundaberg ..	19. 8	1. 1. 2	15. 7	19. 10
Warwick ..	19.11	1. 0. 8	17. 2	19. 11

Comparison of Commonwealth and State Basic Wages

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wage in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

STATE	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES b.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage a.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land
		£ s d	£ s d	s. d		£ s d	£ s d	s. d
Queensland	1069	4. 17. 0	4. 17.0	-	1073	4. 17. 8	4.17. 8	-
N.S.Wales	1142	5. 3. 7	4. 18.0	5. 7	1139	5. 3. 8	4.18. 0	5. 8
Victoria	1135	5. 3. 0	4. 18.0	5. 0	1132	5. 3. 0	4.17.10	5. 2
South Aust.	1103	5. 0. 1	4. 14.0	6. 1	1099	5. 0. 0	4.14. 0	6. 0
West Aust.	1108	5. 0. 6	5. 0.1	5	1117	5. 1. 8	5. 0. 7	1. 1
Tasmania	1107	5. 0. 5	4. 13.0	7. 5	1092	4. 19. 5	4.12. 0	7. 5

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX

Table No.1 THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals)

CITY	Year Ended Dec. 1928	Year Ended June, 1939	Year Ended Sept. 1945	QUARTERS ENDED - Sept. 1944	Decr. 1944	March 1945	June 1945	September 1945
Brisbane	917	863	1070	1071	1069	1071	1072	1069
Toowoomba.. ..	906	851	1086	1084	1084	1086	1088	1085
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1077	1074	1071	1077	1083	1077
Townsville ..	1023	912	1114	1117	1116	1117	1115	1109
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1054	1057	1056	1056	1053	1049
Weighted Averages- Five Cities (a)	915	864	1074	1075	1073	1075	1076	1073
Warwick	914	822	1062	1063	1061	1061	1059	1066

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No.2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY	Year Ended Decr. 1928	Year Ended June 1939	Year Ended Sept. 1945	QUARTERS ENDED - Sept. 1944	Decr. 1944	March 1945	June 1945	September 1945
Brisbane	901	852	923	922	919	924	926	923
Toowoomba.. ..	833	821	949	943	945	949	953	947
Rockhampton ..	858	837	916	907	906	918	922	916
Townsville ..	1047	916	978	975	975	980	983	975
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	887	884	884	888	890	884
Weighted Average- Five Cities (a)	892	851	927	925	923	928	930	927
Warwick	841	768	889	887	887	888	886	896

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No.3 AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES-FOOD AND GROCERIES
Brisbane

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF June 1945	Sept. 1945	Commodity and Unit of Quantity	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF June 1945	Sept. 1945
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats-flaked.. 1 lb.	3.57	4.06	4.25
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk .. .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef-Sirloin Roast.. .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.00	12.00
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.94	3.94	Beef-Steak .. Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	17.00	17.00
Jam (Plum) 1½lb.	8.02	12.59	12.84	Beef-Steak Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.35	7.45
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.91	12.91	Beef-Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.65	7.60
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.36	8.36	Mutton-Leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.50	8.50
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.96	2.96	Mutton-Chops Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	9.00	9.00
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.94	6.97				
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.82	19.82				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.09	15.09				
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	27.91	22.00				

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,
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